

generating a supply chain communication event for delivery to a set of recipients, said set of recipients including trading partners in a supply chain;

modifying said event to include a unique identifier, said identifier stored with additional information descriptive of said event in a database at said hub;

delivering said event in its modified form to said set of recipients;

querying said event for said information descriptive of said event, said querying including matching said unique identifier included in said event with said identifier stored in said database; and

responding to said querying, said responding including delivery of information descriptive of said event.

REMARKS:

Status

There were 21 claims in the original application. In response to a restriction election requirement, claims 11 to 20 were withdrawn and claims 22 to 32 were added. In a response filed previously to this one, Applicant indicated that claim 32 was cancelled but identified it as withdrawn in the claim listing. Claim 32 is identified as cancelled in the claim listing in this response. Claim 33 also was added in a previous response. Accordingly, claims 1 to 10, 22 to 31 and 33 are under consideration. Claims 1, 22 and 33 are the independent ones of these claims.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 to 10 and 22 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,151,582 (Huang). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is reproduced below:

1. A method for doing business including
generating a supply chain communication event at a sender for
delivery to a set of recipients, said set of recipients including trading partners
in a supply chain;
processing said event at a central hub, said processing including
modifying said event to be uniquely identifiable;
delivering said event in its modified form to said set of recipients; and
querying said central hub responsive to receipt of said event.

The applied Huang reference is not seen by Applicant to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, at least with respect to “processing said event at a central hub, said processing including modifying said event to be uniquely identifiable.”

In this regard, Applicant does not see any portion of Huang’s system to *modify* a communication event in a supply chain to be uniquely identifiable. Applicant notes that this is different from simply assigning a unique identifier to a communication event when it is created. Rather, the claim language recites modifying a communication event. However, if the Examiner believes that Huang discloses or suggests such, then Applicant respectfully requests for the Examiner to indicate where this feature is disclosed or suggested.

The modification of a communication event to be uniquely identifiable by a central hub can have significant ramifications. For example, if the trading partners modified communication events for identification purposes, two trading partners could generate matching identifiers, leading to confusion. This possibly could be avoided by communication among trading partners or other

techniques, but that could add to the complexity of the overall system. (Of course, the invention is not limited to these ramifications.) Thus, modification of a communication event to be uniquely identifiable is a non-trivial feature. As discussed above, Applicant does not see Huang to disclose or to suggest such a feature.

Even if Huang does teach such modification of a communication event, Huang still does not appear to teach that the operation is performed by a central hub. In this regard, Huang's supply chain network 58 appears to Applicant to be the element in Huang that could be considered to be a central hub. See, e.g., Fig. 5. However, Huang does not appear to disclose that this supply chain network is a hub as that term is used in the current application, namely a device that includes a processor and memory and that executes instructions. See page 11, lines 1 to 6, of the application. One specific example of such an instruction is included in claim 1, namely "modifying said event to be uniquely identifiable." Thus, the hub recited by claim 1, which modifies an event to be uniquely identifiable, appears to be clearly different from Huang's supply chain network 58.

Applicant notes that the Aug 5th Office Action did not indicate where Huang disclosed or suggested the features discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant is not able to directly address the Examiner's position with regard to these features. Applicant therefore requests that if the rejection over Huang is maintained, the Examiner identify where he believes that Huang discloses or suggests these features.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 103 rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims over Huang. Allowance of those claims also is respectfully requested.

Claims 22 to 31 are essentially claims 1 to 10 in apparatus form, and claim 33 is essentially claim 1 in Beauregard claim format. Accordingly, for substantially the reasons discussed above, reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested of the § 103 rejection of these claims as well. Allowance of those claims also is respectfully requested.

No Admission

Applicant's decision not to argue each of the dependent claims separately is not an admission that the subject matter of those claims is taught by the applied art.

Closing

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 205-3241. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/20/2006

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